

Chapter 4

Consistency with Local and Regional Plans

Setting

Existing Land Uses and Plan Designations

On-site

The project site comprises the entire 31-acre Malibu Lagoon, a shallow water embayment occurring at the terminus of the Malibu Creek watershed, emptying seaward of PCH at Malibu Surfrider Beach. The lagoon is within Malibu Lagoon State Beach, which is owned and operated by DPR, except for the sandy beach area that is operated by Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors. Existing land uses on the project site are primarily recreational and supportive of open space and habitat preservation. Onsite amenities include a surface parking lot, walking and beach access trails, a picnic area, restroom facilities, and State Park facilitated tours and activities.¹

Adjacent

The area in the immediate vicinity of the lagoon contains a mix of land uses. Commercial uses and civic center offices are located north of the project site, across PCH. This commercial and civic area is contained within the Malibu LUP Civic Center Overlay Boundary. Malibu Creek also extends to the north of the site. Adjacent to the east of the lagoon is the National Register-listed historic Adamson House, which is located within Malibu Lagoon State Beach. Immediately to the west of the site is a fenced private golf course, and bordering on the southwest is a strip of medium density single-family residences with beach frontage (Malibu Colony). Additional recreational uses are located to the south at Malibu Lagoon State Beach/Surfrider Beach and the Pacific Ocean.

¹ California Department of Parks and Recreation web site, Malibu Lagoon State Beach. Available: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=835>. Accessed: September 2005.

Major highways and transportation facilities in the vicinity of the site include PCH (Highway 1), the main transportation corridor serving the community, and Malibu Canyon Road (located to the west).

Land Use Policies and Plans

Several land use plans are applicable to the study area in which the project site lies. A brief description of the purposes, goals, and policies for each of these planning documents follows. It should be noted that, as a state agency, DPR is not subject to local zoning requirements and other plans and ordinances. However, as the applicable City of Malibu plans, policies, goals, and zoning designations are wholly consistent with the proposed project, they are included in this chapter for the benefit of the reader.

South Coast Air Quality Management Plan

The 1999 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) was prepared by SCAG and the SCAQMD to meet state and federal air quality standards for the South Coast Air Basin. The South Coast Air Basin encompasses 6,600 square miles and includes all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Air pollution in the region has been significantly reduced as a result of pollution control measures. Future pollution emissions forecasts are based on SCAG economic growth projections and California Energy Commission forecasts. The 2010 pollution projections are all substantially less than the 1990 levels. Projected future reductions in pollutant emissions will be achieved through a series of stationary and mobile source controls.

City of Malibu General Plan

The Malibu General Plan (November 1995) provides an analysis of existing conditions in the City, examines trends, issues and concerns affecting the region, and provides policies to guide development. The General Plan serves as the major tool for directing the City's growth while maintaining an attractive, viable, and safe environment. The General Plan states that the City is committed to the preservation of its natural and cultural resources. Seven state-mandated elements comprise the comprehensive general plan. Applicable elements are listed below.

Land Use Element

The General Plan Land Use Element serves as a guide for future development within the City. It includes a Land Use Policy Map that prescribes the location and distribution of land use types and intensities throughout the City and a statement of the City's goals, objectives, and policies related to land use planning. The land use designations are

complementary and consistent with the City's zoning designations and those outlined in the Malibu Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan.

Goals outlined in the Land Use element that are related to the proposed lagoon restoration include: protection and enhancement of natural and environmental resources; and recreational opportunities consistent with the protection of natural resources.

Specific policies related to the proposed project are presented in Table 4-1 at the end of this chapter.

Open Space and Recreation Element

The General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element contains an analysis of the open space lands and an action program for their preservation and conservation, scenic enjoyment, recreation and the use of natural resources. The overarching goals applicable to the project, as outlined in this element, include: an abundance of open space contributing to a rural and natural environment; and diverse opportunities for recreation and leisure. Table 4-1 lists the specific Open Space & Recreation policies related to the proposed project.

Conservation Element

The General Plan Conservation Element contains a plan for the conservation of natural resources within the City and adjacent areas. Its overarching goals are to preserve and protect natural, cultural, energy, and water resources, and to reduce solid waste. Consistent with these goals, it serves as a guide for the conservation, protection, restoration, and management of the City's existing natural resources by establishing policies that promote intelligent resource management. Related policies are listed in Table 4-1.

California Coastal Act

The City of Malibu is located within the Coastal Zone as defined by the California Coastal Act of 1976. The Coastal Act requires each community within the coastal zone to prepare a Local Coastal Program (LCP), including a LUP to protect, maintain, and, where feasible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the coastal zone environment and its natural resources (see description of the Malibu LCP below). The Coastal Act policies (Coastal Resources Planning and Management Policies as set forth in Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act) are the basis for all LCPs and are incorporated into the Malibu LCP by reference. These policies address public access, recreation, marine environment, land resources, development, and industrial development. Applicable Coastal Act policies are listed in Table 4-1.

City of Malibu Local Coastal Program

The Coastal Commission Certified Malibu LCP (adopted by the California Coastal Commission on September 13, 2002) consists of the LUP, Local Implementation Plan, and includes zoning ordinances, zoning district maps, and sensitive coastal resource area maps

(Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas or ESHA's). The overarching goal and intent of the Land Use Plan policies is to ensure that the LCP LUP provides for protection, provision, and enhancement of public access and recreation opportunities in the City consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the California Coastal Act. The LCP LUP reflects the goals and preferences of the City as set forth in its General Plan. Applicable land use plan policies are shown in Table 4-1 at the end of this chapter.

California Department of Parks & Recreation Malibu Lagoon State Beach Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan

The Malibu Lagoon State Beach Resource Management Plan and General Development (April, 1978) aims to provide policies for preservation, interpretation, and public use of natural and cultural resource values within State Beach and Lagoon unit. The Plan includes management and development policies intended to enhance and perpetuate scenic, natural, and cultural values while providing for appropriate public use and recreation opportunities that will complement and preserve the resources present. The Plan also mentions specific improvements intended to restore and enhance the lagoon and marsh. Applicable development plans and resource policies are shown in Table 4-1 at the end of this chapter.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Thresholds of Significance

For the purposes of the analysis in this EIR, the proposed project would have a significant environmental impact on land use and planning if it would:

- Physically divide an established community;
- Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation to an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect; or
- Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

Consistency with Existing Land Uses and Local Plans

Land uses surrounding the proposed project area include single-family residential, public open space, and visitor-serving commercial.

Restoration and enhancement projects would be compatible with these surrounding uses, as the onsite uses would not be changed, and onsite amenities would be minimally altered.

The consistency of the project with the Malibu General Plan, California Coastal Act, Malibu Local Coastal Program, and Malibu Lagoon State Beach Resource Management & Development Plan is summarized in Table 4-1 at the end of this chapter. As shown in the table, the project would be supportive of, and consistent with, the relevant policies and objectives in the aforementioned plans.

Consistency with Zoning Designations

The project area falls within the OS Malibu zoning land use classifications. The OS zone allows public beaches and parks and “establishes provisions for passive recreational activity and enjoyment and preservation of the city’s natural resources...”² The Malibu General Plan Land Use element and the Malibu LCP LUP designate the project area as OS as well. According to the General Plan Land Use Element text, “...the OS designation provides for publicly owned land which is dedicated to recreation or preservation of the City’s natural resources, including public beaches, park lands and preserves.”

Accordingly, the proposed project would not materially conflict with the Malibu General Plan, Malibu LCP LUP, and zoning land uses because (1) the lagoon (project site) is currently designated for use as a public beach, (2) the project would not require a zoning or land use change, and (3) the restoration plan does not propose expansion outside the existing Malibu Lagoon State Beach footprint. While DPR as a state agency is not subject to City zoning requirements and other local plans and ordinances, it is nevertheless consistent with these designations. No impacts would occur.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed project is consistent with existing zoning and land use policies and is compatible with existing land uses; thus, no impacts would result, and no mitigation measures are required.

² City of Malibu Municipal Code, Zoning Ordinance. Available: <<http://municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com/codes/malibu/>>. Accessed: September 2005.

Table 4-1. Comparison of the Proposed Project with Local Plans

Objectives and Policies	Finding	Discussion
<u>Malibu General Plan – Land Use Element</u>		
<i>LU Policy 3.1.2: The City shall encourage appropriate passive uses of parks and beaches such as biking, bird watching, hiking, horseback riding, kayaking, scientific study, surfing, swimming and tide pool viewing.</i>	Consistent with this policy	Existing facilities would continue to provide appropriate passive uses. The project would not introduce new, active uses.
<u>Malibu General Plan – Conservation Element</u>		
<i>CON Policy 1.1.4: The City shall protect Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA's) as a priority over development and against any significant disruption of habitat values.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The proposed project area is within an LCP-designated ESHA. The proposed project would directly improve the existing lagoon habitat, and would not result in development or significant habitat disruption.
<i>CON Policy 1.1.5: The City shall protect and reclaim Malibu's threatened natural resources such as the beaches, estuaries marine life, ocean tidepools, streams, waterfalls, wetlands, wildlife and plant life and their habitats.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The proposed project includes activities that would directly restore, enhance and manage Malibu Lagoon and its associated habitat.
<i>CON Policy 1.1.7: The City shall promote and maintain programs for interagency cooperation, both public and private, to accomplish comprehensive natural resource management.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The City has and continues to be involved in the project as a Responsible Agency.
<i>CON Implementation Measure 4: Develop and adopt a watershed-wide cooperative program committed to the protection of natural resources, with Malibu Creek as the most immediate priority. The programs shall seek the cooperation of adjacent jurisdictions in order to create uniform practices and protection measures.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The City has and continues to be involved in the project as a Responsible Agency.
<i>CON Policy 1.2.2: The City shall protect, preserve and reclaim very threatened plant community types that occur in Malibu, as inventoried by the Department of Fish and Game with special emphasis on these: Southern Coastal Bluff Scrub; Southern Dune Scrub; Valley Needlegrass Grassland; Southern Foredunes (Broadbeach); Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub; Coastal Brackish Marsh (Malibu Creek and Lagoon); Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh; Southern Willow Scrub; California Walnut Woodland and Valley Oak Woodland.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The City has and continues to be involved in the project as a Responsible Agency.

Objectives and Policies	Finding	Discussion
<i>CON Policy 1.3.4: The City shall protect and support restoration of all kelpbeds, wetlands, creeks and estuaries of Malibu.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The proposed project is intended to restore and protect Malibu Lagoon. The City of Malibu supports the proposed effort.
<i>CON Policy 1.3.6: The City shall take the lead to reclaim and preserve the natural state of the Malibu Lagoon.</i>	Consistent with this policy	City has and continues to be involved in planning efforts with other agencies to restore and enhance the lagoon.
<i>CON Implementation Measure 60: Develop a plan for restoration of the Malibu Lagoon addressing the advantage of (a) constructing additional wetlands; (b) widening the existing estuary; (c) establishing receiving water standards; (d) requiring a drainage system for the Civic Center Area and other areas currently draining into the estuary and lower creek.</i>	Consistent with this policy	City has and continues to be involved in planning efforts with other agencies to restore and enhance the lagoon.
<u>Malibu General Plan – Open Space and Recreation Element</u>		
<i>OS Policy 1.1.3: The City shall preserve, protect, and enhance the character and visual quality of natural open space as a scenic resource of great value and importance to the quality of life of residents and to the enhancement of the scenic experience of visitors.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The proposed project would improve the visual quality of Malibu Lagoon. The lagoon would continue to be a scenic resource to visitors and adjacent residents.
<i>OS Policy 2.1.3: The City shall preserve, protect, and maintain parks to assure continued enjoyment for future generations.</i>	Consistent with this policy	Restoration activities proposed under the Plan would provide needed improvements and maintenance—including habitat enhancement—to the existing state park area.
<i>OS Policy 3.3.1: The City shall work to ensure that public access is consistent with conservation.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The proposed project would include improvements to onsite trails and walkways consistent with conservation goals. Public coastal access would not be affected.
<u>California Coastal Act</u>		
<i>Section 30230. Marine resources shall be maintained, enhanced, and where feasible, restored. Special protection shall be given to areas and species of special biological or economic significance. Uses of the marine environment shall be carried out in a manner that will sustain the biological productivity of coastal waters and that will maintain healthy populations of all species of marine organisms adequate for long-term commercial, recreational, scientific, and educational purposes.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The purpose and intent of the proposed project is to maintain, enhance and restore Malibu Lagoon and its surrounding habitat.

Objectives and Policies	Finding	Discussion
<i>Section 30231. The biological productivity and the quality of coastal waters, streams, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes appropriate to maintain optimum populations of marine organisms and for the protection of human health shall be maintained and, where feasible, restored through, among other means, minimizing adverse effects of waste water discharges and entrainment, controlling runoff, preventing depletion of ground water supplies and substantial interference with surface water flow, encouraging waste water reclamation, maintaining natural vegetation buffer areas that protect riparian habitats, and minimizing alteration of natural streams.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The Plan includes a water management component that would manage drainage from parking lot/public use areas to restored areas. Best Management Practices would be included to enhance water quality in the lagoon. Circulation within the lagoon would be closely monitored and evaluated.
<i>Section 30240. (a) Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on those resources shall be allowed within those areas. (b) Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade those areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of those habitat and recreation areas.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The project area is within an LCP-designated ESHA. The proposed project would not significantly disrupt habitat values, nor introduce unallowable uses, but is directly aimed at improving and enhancing the overall habitat area. The Plan would have a beneficial effect on existing ESHAs.
<i>Section 30251. The scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas shall be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. Permitted development shall be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas, to minimize the alteration of natural land forms, to be visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas, and, where feasible, to restore and enhance visual quality in visually degraded areas. New development in highly scenic areas such as those designated in the California Coastline Preservation and Recreation Plan prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation and by local government shall be subordinate to the character of its setting.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The scenic and visual quality of the project area would be enhanced by the proposed restoration activities. The proposed project would not alter landforms nor disrupt existing views.

Objectives and Policies	Finding	Discussion
<u>Malibu Local Coastal Program (LCP) Land Use Plan</u>		
<i>Chapter 2: Public Access & Recreation:</i>		
<i>Policy 2.17: Recreation and access opportunities at existing public beaches and parks shall be protected, and where feasible, enhanced as an important coastal resource. Public beaches and parks shall maintain lower-cost user fees and parking fees, and maximize hours of use to the extent feasible, in order to maximize public access and recreation opportunities. Limitations on time of use or increases in use fees or parking fees, which effect the intensity of use, shall be subject to a coastal development permit.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The proposed project would include improvements to onsite trails and walkways consistent with conservation goals. Public coastal access would not be affected. Park hours and useage fees would not be affected.
<i>Chapter 3: Marine and Land Resources:</i>		
<i>Policy 3.25: New development, including, but not limited to, vegetation removal, vegetation thinning, or planting of non-native or invasive vegetation shall not be permitted in required ESHA or park buffer areas, except for that case addressed in Policy 3.27. Habitat restoration and invasive plant eradication may be permitted within required buffer areas if designed to protect and enhance habitat values.</i>	Consistent with this policy	Exotic/invasive vegetation removal would be part of the habitat restoration efforts of the proposed Plan.
<i>Policy 3.32 Channelizations or other substantial alterations of streams shall be prohibited except for: ... 3) the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat... Any channelization or stream alteration permitted...shall minimize impacts to coastal resources, including the depletion of groundwater, and shall include maximum feasible mitigation measures to mitigate unavoidable impacts. Bioengineering alternatives shall be preferred for flood protection over “hard” solutions such as concrete or riprap channels.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The Plan proposes to deepen an existing channel in the eastern portion of the lagoon, and create a new channel for water entry and exit in the western portion of the lagoon. These proposed channel alterations would improve water circulation and quality, thereby improving fish and wildlife habitat.
<i>Policy 3.45 All new development shall be sited and designed so as to minimize grading, alteration of physical features, and vegetation clearance in order to prevent soil erosion, stream siltation, reduced water percolation, increased runoff, and adverse impacts on plant and animal life and prevent net increases in baseline flows for any receiving waterbody.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The proposed project is intended to restore and improve existing natural resources, reduce polluted runoff, and provide beneficial effects to plant and animal life.

Objectives and Policies	Finding	Discussion
<i>Policy 3.82 Near shore shallow fish habitats and shore fishing areas shall be preserved, and where appropriate and feasible, enhanced.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The proposed project is intended to restore and protect Malibu Lagoon.
<i>Policy 3.87 The biological productivity and the quality of wetlands shall be protected and, where feasible, restored.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The proposed project is intended to restore and protect the Malibu Lagoon.
<i>Policy 3.89 The diking, filling, or dredging of open coastal waters, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes may be permitted in accordance with all policies of the LCP, where there is no feasible less environmentally damaging alternative and where feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects, and shall be limited to the following:...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Restoration purposes... <i>Other uses specified in Section 30233 of the Coastal Act may only be allowed pursuant to an LCP amendment.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The Plan proposes to deepen an existing channel in the eastern portion of the lagoon, and create a new channel for water entry and exit in the western portion of the lagoon. These proposed channel alterations would improve water circulation and quality, thereby improving fish and wildlife habitat.
<i>Policy 3.93 A lagoon management plan should be developed for Malibu Lagoon, in consultation with all applicable resource management agencies. The plan shall address the following at a minimum:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Biological study of the lagoon habitat, including identification of all rare, threatened, and endangered species. · Lagoon hydrology. · Water quality sampling study. · Identification of the water levels appropriate and necessary for protection of the various species. · Measures to protect endangered species. · Water quality protection and enhancement measures. · Identification of potential impacts from breaching or water level management, including reduction of certain kinds or areas of habitat. · Identification of project alternatives to the proposed breaching or water level management designed to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive resources. · Mitigation measures necessary to offset unavoidable impacts from the proposed breaching or water level management. 	Consistent with this policy	This EIR evaluates the proposed Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement Plan.

Objectives and Policies	Finding	Discussion
<p>· <i>Monitoring plan to monitor the management area to evaluate the health of the wetland, assess adverse impacts resulting from breaching or water level management, and to identify project corrections.</i></p> <p><u>Archaeology:</u></p> <p><i>Policy 5.61 Where development would adversely impact archaeological or paleontological resources as identified by the State Historic Preservation Officer, reasonable mitigation measures shall be required.</i></p> <p><i>Policy 5.62 The City should coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as the UCLA Archaeological Center, to identify archaeologically sensitive areas. Such information should be kept confidential to protect archaeological resources.</i></p> <p><u>Ch. 6. Visual /Scenic Resources</u></p> <p><i>Policy 6.5 New development shall be sited and designed to minimize adverse impacts on scenic areas visible from scenic roads or public viewing areas to the maximum feasible extent. If there is no feasible building site location on the proposed project site where development would not be visible, then the development shall be sited and designed to minimize impacts on scenic areas visible from scenic highways or public viewing areas, through measures including, but not limited to, siting development in the least visible portion of the site, breaking up the mass of new structures, designing structures to blend into the natural hillside setting, restricting the building maximum size, reducing maximum height standards, clustering development, minimizing grading, incorporating landscape elements, and where appropriate, berming.</i></p> <p><i>Policy 6.27 New development shall minimize removal of natural vegetation. Existing native trees and plants shall be preserved on the site, consistent with Policy 3.60.</i></p>		
	Consistent with this policy	The project study area is immediately adjacent to a historic site and could potentially contain archaeological or paleontological resources. All applicable mitigation and monitoring measures would be incorporated during restoration activities.
	Consistent with this policy	The project study area is immediately adjacent to a historic site and could potentially contain archaeological or paleontological resources. All applicable mitigation and monitoring measures would be incorporated during restoration activities.
	Consistent with this policy	The project area is adjacent to and visible from Pacific Coast Highway, a designated scenic highway. The proposed Plan would not include alterations that would adversely affect any visual or scenic resources.
	Consistent with this policy	Exotic/invasive vegetation removal would be part of the habitat restoration efforts of the proposed Plan. Selected native plants, such as those not belonging in lagoons, may be removed. Other native plants may be removed where necessary to accomplish successful wetland expansion and provide long-term

Objectives and Policies	Finding	Discussion
		habitat enhancement. Otherwise, native plants shall be protected.
Malibu Lagoon State Beach Resource Management Plan & Development Plan		
<i>Resource Management Policy – Natural Values</i>		
2. <i>The Saltwater marsh and lagoon shall be reserved for a wildlife sanctuary, primarily to perpetuate this disappearing habitat and the species that use this area. Visitor use within this area shall be restricted to designated locations and observation points, so the habitat will not be destroyed or the animals disturbed. Domestic animals should not be allowed in this area...</i>	Consistent with this policy	The proposed project would include improvements to onsite trails and walkways consistent with conservation goals. Public coastal access would not be affected.
3. <i>Native plants should be encouraged in natural areas, and aggressive exotic plants should be removed if they restrict the growth of native plants.</i>	Consistent with this policy	Exotic/invasive vegetation removal would be part of the habitat restoration efforts of the proposed Plan. Selected native plants, such as those not belonging in lagoons, may be removed. Other native plants may be removed where necessary to accomplish successful wetland expansion and provide long-term habitat enhancement. Otherwise, native plants shall be protected.
4. <i>The lagoon water level shall be controlled through adoption of a management program that will determine how and when the lagoon shall be opened to the sea. This plan shall be based on solving problems associated with the lagoon water levels, to the best interests of all people concerned.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The Plan proposes to deepen an existing channel in the eastern portion of the lagoon, and create a new channel for water entry and exit in the western portion of the lagoon. These proposed channel alterations would improve water circulation and quality, thereby improving fish and wildlife habitat. All channel and lagoon alterations would be carefully monitored.
5. <i>The area should be managed so that it remains a beautiful and scenic open-space unit.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The purpose of the proposed project is to restore and protect Malibu Lagoon.
<i>Resource Management Policy – Cultural Values</i>		
1. <i>Before any development that may affect cultural resources, a thorough study will be conducted. The correct construction and use period of each structure will be determined, both as an individual entity and as it relates to the total cultural environment. Research and archaeological investigation will be parts of this study.</i>	Consistent with this policy	The project is immediately adjacent to a historic site that could contain archaeological or paleontological resources. Project-specific mitigation and monitoring measures would be incorporated during restoration activities to ensure this site is protected (see Chapter 7, Cultural Resources).
4. <i>The prehistoric site (CA:LAN:264) and the historic site are one and the same. The prehistoric site is of vast significance, and careful study of the site may produce needed</i>	Consistent with this policy.	The project is immediately adjacent to this historic site. Project-specific mitigation and monitoring measures would be incorporated during

Objectives and Policies	Finding	Discussion
<p><i>information in defining the lifestyles of the Chumash Indians. Proper care and sensitivity to the site must be demonstrated at all times. Any future sites which are discovered on existing State Park System property, or which are subsequently acquired, shall be carefully recorded and protected.</i></p> <p><i>Development Plan</i></p> <p><i>It has long been recognized that the lagoon systems are not functioning properly under current conditions. Human and other uses not conducive to maintenance of marsh environments have resulted in the disappearance of certain wildlife and plant species. It is for this reason that alterations to the marsh environment are proposed.</i></p> <p><i>Drainage improvements would include restoring and enlarging the saltwater marsh. Tidal waters will be allowed to penetrate deeper into the backlands, by means of graded-out channels. Pickleweed (salicornia) is to be planted or replanted in appropriate locations a 1.2 meter (4-foot)-high restraining fence could further control human penetration through these wetlands; compatible native plantings would make its presence less obvious.</i></p> <p><i>The department...recommends that the area be classified a natural preserve within the proposed boundaries.</i></p> <p><i>The interpretive facility will...explain the ecosystems and functions of the lagoon.</i></p>	<p>Consistent with this policy</p> <p>Consistent with this policy</p> <p>Consistent with this policy</p>	<p>restoration activities to ensure this site is protected (see Chapter 7, Cultural Resources).</p> <p>The Plan proposes to deepen an existing channel in the eastern portion of the lagoon, and create a new channel for water entry and exit in the western portion of the lagoon. These proposed channel alterations would improve water circulation and quality, thereby improving fish and wildlife habitat. All channel and lagoon alterations would be carefully monitored.</p> <p>The purpose of the proposed project is to restore and protect Malibu Lagoon and would not involve any land use changes. The lagoon would continue to be a protected resource.</p> <p>The proposed project will include improved, non-intrusive interpretive areas and observation points.</p>